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1955/04/04

SECRET

4 April 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. I was called by the Presidency last night at 2115 with a request that I again go to the Palace to talk with President Ngo Dinh Diem. As I was in the midst of some very important work, I sent Lt Redick instead.

2. Lt Redick actually talked to Ngo Dinh Luyen, who spoke to him at length on many subjects. The following are pertinent highlights:

a. General Ely saw General Ty at 1800 3 April and told him that he had not released the railroad cars requested by the FAVN General Staff to bring in three fresh battalions from the Center because of the three-day period during which there were to be no operations. (Luyen explained that the French still control rail transportation, but that cars are ordinarily released automatically upon request.)

b. The Vietnamese now have twelve obusiers mounted with 75's (presumably self-propelled 75mm howitzers). Luyen says that until recently their presence in Vietnam was unknown to the FAVN General Staff and to the French. The latter will not release gasoline or ammunition for them but keep asking the Vietnamese where they came from. (Comment: The FAVN said they discovered these in their "Reserve Park" recently.)

c. The French had still not released ammunition to the Vietnamese even though orders had been given. Luyen said that perhaps it would be delivered today.

E G Lansdale

EDWARD G LANSDALE
Colonel USAF

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